

Message Text

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EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ADDING LONDON AS AN ADDRESSEE

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TC, IR
SUBJ: POLITICAL TENSION IN THE UAE

REF: STATE 141246

1. DURING CALL ON MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ASIA AND AFRICA SANANDAJI JUNE 7. POLCOUNS TOOK OCCASION TO BRIEF HIM ON INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN AMBASSADOR DICKMAN IN REFTEL. SANANDAJI IMMEDIATELY REJOINED THAT, IF HE WAS ARULER IN UAE, HE WOULD ASK THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WHAT USG IS PREPARED TO DO MORE SPECIFICALLY TO GUARD AGAINST THREATS TO THE PERSIAN GULF REGION. POLCOUNS RESPONDED THAT USG EXPECTS OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA WITH SIMILAR INTERST, SUCH AS IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED UNITY AND STRENGTHEN DETERMINATION OF UAE STATES WITH WHOM THEY ARE SO INFLUENTIAL.

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SANANDAJI TOOK THIS IN, BUT PERSISTED IN LINE THAT USG SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT INTERNAL SECURITY OF LOWER PERSIAN GULF STATES, AS HE HAD BEEN SHOCKED BY OBVIOUS "NEGLIGENCE" OF USG IN AFGHANISTAN SITUATION.

2. IN WHAT TURNED INTO A LIVELY DISCUSSION, SANANDAJI MADE THE POINT THAT A MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN THAN WORRY ABOUT UAE

UNITY IS QUESTION OF INTERNAL SECURITY AS IT RELATES TO MAKEUP OF SECURITY FORCES, AND LARGE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE AREA. HE DESCRIBED SHEIKH ZAYID AS A SIMPLE-MINDED BEDOUIN, VERY NAIVE, AND A FIGUREHEAD WHO IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF CUNNING ADVISORS SUCH AS FOREIGN MINISTER SUWAYDI AND OTHERS. IT IS TOO BAD HE DOES NOT HAVE THE WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING OF SHEIKH RASHID, WHOM SANANDAJI CHARACTERIEZED AS THE ONLY WISE MAN IN THE AREA. AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE, HE NOTED RUL OF RAS-AL-KHAIMA "WILL DO ANYTHING FOR MONEY".

2. MEANWHILE, BUL OF UAE, AS WELL AS OMANI, ARMED FORCES ARE BALUCHI. WITH THE PALESTINIANS, THEY PRESENT POTENTIAL TARGET FOR SUBVERSION, PARTICULARLY GIVEN EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORHOOD OF BALUCHISTAN. HE ASKED THAT THESE COMMENTS BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON AND, IF WASHINGTON HAS CONVINCING ARGUMENTS WHY IRANIANS SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED ABOUT INTERNAL SECURITY IN SMALLER GULF STATES, GOI WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR THEM.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH THE SHAH JUNE 6, AMBASSADOR PICKED UP SIMILAR VIBRATIONS. ALTHOUGH NOT DWELLING LONG ON THE SUBJECT, SHAH LAMENTED NAIVETE OF SHEIKH ZAYID (WHOM, HOWEVER, HE CONSIDERED TRUSTWORTHY ENOUGH). SHAH HAD HIGH REGARD FOR ABILITY OF SHEIKH RASHID. HE ALSO POINTED TO CUNNING ADVISORS AROUND ZAYID SUCH AS SUWAYDI WHOM SHAH SUSPECTED OF COLLUSION WITH IRAQIS.

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4. COMMENT: DANGER OF SUBVERSION IN LOWER PERSIAN GULF REGION HAS BEEN A RELATIVELY CONSISTENT THEME WITH IRANIANS, THOUGH MORE URGENTLY EXPRESSED IN RECENT MONTHS. IT IS CLEARLY GAINING IMPETUS FOLLOWING THE EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN (WHICH GOI HAS PERSUADED ITSELF IT PREDICTED BUT WAS NOT LISTENED TO BE STRONGER FRIENDS SUCH AS USG). THE IRANIANS DO NOT EXPECT MUCH EFFECTIVE ACTION BY SAUDI ARABIA IF LOWER GULF GOVERNMENTS GET INTO TROUBLE. THEY NOTE SAUDIS ARE NOT EVEN EMPLOYING THEIR ONLY UNDOUBTEDLY POTENT WEAPON-MONEY-AS WIDELY AS THEY SHOULD TO INSURE STABILITY. WE RECOMMEND THIS SUBJECT FOR FURTHER STUDY IN WASHINGTON AND WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITUATION IN UAE WHICH MIGHT ASSIST OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE IRANIANS.

SULLIVAN

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